

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tsutomu Okada

Examiner: Unassigned

Serial No: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: Herewith

Docket: 17376

For: DIATHERMIC SNARE, MEDICAL
INSTRUMENT SYSTEM USING THE
SNARE, AND METHOD OF ASSEMBLING
THE MEDICAL INSTRUMENT SYSTEM

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. Japanese UM Application KOKAI Publication No. 56-160516, published November 30, 1981;
2. Japanese UM Application KOKOKU Publication No. 6-9623, published March 16, 1994;

"CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

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Date of Deposit: January 26, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 26, 2004.

Dated: January 26, 2004



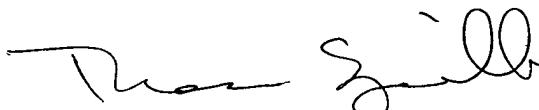
Thomas Spinelli

3. Japanese UM Application KOKAI Publication No. 6-75402, published October 25, 1994;
4. Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 2001-275933, published October 9, 2001; and
5. Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 2002-45369, published February 12, 2002, corresponding to United States Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0053909 A1, published December 20, 2001, issued to Nakada et al.

Applicant is submitting copies of the above-cited Japanese references. U.S. patents are no longer required per the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) in effect as of June 30, 2003. The relevance of the above-identified references has been described in the specification.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Spinelli
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Form PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (REV. 7-80) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		Atty. Docket No. (Optional)	Application Number
LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT		17376	Unassigned
<i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>		Applicant(s) Tsutomu Okada	
		Filing Date Herewith	Group Art Unit Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL*		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (if appropriate)
	AA	2001/0053909 A1	12/20/01	Nakada et al.			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
		56-160516	11/30/81	Japan				
		6-9623	3/16/94	Japan				
		6-75402	10/25/94	Japan				
		2001-275933	10/9/01	Japan				
		2002-45369	2/12/02	Japan				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (*Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.*)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.